Terrorist outfits in J&K

*788. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the terrorist outfits operating in the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the names thereof alongwith the number of active members of each of the outfits;

(c) whether Government have made efforts to bring these outfits back into the mainstream of the country during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the number of such outfits which have joint the mainstreams?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) Hizbul-Mujahideen, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Lashkar-e-Toiba, Jamiat-ul-Mujahideen, Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, Harkat-ul-Jehad-e-Islami, Al-Umar-Mujahideen, J&K Islamic Front and Al-Badr are some significant terrorist outfits operating in the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

Assessment of the combined strength of all terrorist groups operating in J&K vary between 3250 and 4500. Assessments also indicate that over two third of all terrorists within J&K are foreign terrorists.

(c) and (d) Government has reiterated from time to time, its willingness to talk with all groups within J&K who abjure the path of violence. However with the terrorist groups drawing sustence and even instructions, from across the LoC/IB, no group has responded positively.

Talks with ULFA

789. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what decision have been taken by Government to have dialogue with ULFA after getting the request from the Assam State Government;

*Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether any initiative has been taken in this regard; and

(c) if so. what preparations are going on?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) The Government has extended an invitation to all those who have strayed from the paths of togetherness to come forward tor talks within the four corners of out Constitution. The United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) has not yet come forward for peace talks within the parameters indicated.

PM's meeting with opposition leaders on cross border Terrorism

790. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has recently met the leaders of Opposition parties in view of situation arising out of cross-border terrorism;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions given by the leaders of the Opposition parties; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Prime Minister has been regularly consulting with the leaders of various opposition parties on major national and international issues including cross-border terrorism. The Prime Minister's exchange of views and ideas with these leaders has been aimed at developing a broad national consensus on these issues.

International Observers for J&K Legislative Assembly Election

791. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agrees to have international observers in Jammu and Kashmir at the time of election to the Legislative Assembly; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to hold free and fair elections?